(b) Yes, Sir, it has been partly implemented.

(c) Entrustment of National Highways to NHAI is being done in a phased manner. National Highways are being maintained in traffic worthy conditions within the available resources.

Plan to Minimise Road Accidents

†568. SHRI ONKAR SINGH LAKHAWAT: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of progress made in respect of construction of about seven throusand kilometers long National Highways as declared by Government; and total expenditure to be incurred thereon alongwith the expenditure proposed to be incurred during the year of 1999-2000; and

(b) whether Government are formulating any plan to bring down the number of accidents being occurred on National Highways; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) The Hon'ble Member is perhaps referring to the construction of 4/6 laning of the 7300 kms of North South Corridor from Kashmir to Kanyakumari including Cochin-Salem spur and East-West Corridor from Silchar to Saurashtra at an estimated cost of Rs. 27,000 crores as announced by the Hon'ble Prime Minister in October, 1998. Work at 16 sections totalling to a length of about 220 kms. have commenced. This is estimated to cost around Rs. 670 crores.

(b) To reduce the number of accidents, road improvement works, like widening to four lanes, strengthening existing two lane sections, reconstruction of weak and narrow bridges, construction of bypasses, widening of single lane sections to two lanes, provision of services roads, parking laybyes, passenger oriented wayside amenities, retro reflective road signs, thermoplastic road markings etc., are being undertaken depending on the available resources to cater to increased

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

traffic and for making the National Highways more safe. In addition to this, education and publicity programmes are also undertaken to increase road safety, awareness among road users.

Acquisition of Land for Rest Areas in Andhra Pradesh

570. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will he Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) wheather Government has made any specific effort to acquire land in Andhra Pradesh for a much demanded REST AREA;

(b) if so, the quantum of land acquired;

(c) whether the road safety authorities have welcomed suggestions from concerned citizens on the high number of fatalities in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) if not, the reasons for neglecting road safety in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Land acquisition for one such facility at Palamner on NH-4 has been completed.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Road Accidents on NH-5

571. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any special effort is being made by the National Highways Authority of India to reduce road accidents;

(b) whether it is a fact that no special design work has been done to improve roads from the safety angle;